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Why #86 Math is considered a universal language; Is it really and are all symbols for all cultures?

Scope: Historically
-One greater or less than another has always been understood.
- Notation has varied from culture to culture across time

Change Factors
Mass Communication
-Printing press
-Typewriter
-Computer Keyboard

Standardization
le System international d’unites (SI)
Prefixes/suffixes and notations
International Standards Organization (ISO)
Set standards for values
International Bureau of Weights and Measurements (IBWM)
Set quantitative measurements

Categories of Mathematical Symbols
1. Operations (Computation)
2. Relation
3. Grouping
4. Sets
5. Miscellaneous

International Standard Mathematical Symbols
+ Addition
- Subtraction
×, ·, * Multiplication
÷, / Division
\( x^n \), \( x^n \) Exponent
(, ), [], etc. Groupings

Scope: Today
Notation of values change but NOT mathematical symbols.

Examples of differing notations for the same value:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>123,456.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>123,456-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE*</td>
<td>123.456,78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>123 456.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,23,456.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Continental Europe

Citations:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_of_mathematical_symbols
http://www.math.com/tables/general/numnotation.htm
http://mathworld.wolfram.com/DecimalPoint.html